

What should retailers know?

Both managers and employees have an important role in helping law enforcement stop meth production.

Managers:

- Use Virginia Meth Watch decals throughout the store.
- Place meth-related products in staffed or monitored areas.
- Limit the number of meth-related items on display.
- Make sure all employees understand the Virginia Meth Watch program.
- Tell your employees to never confront someone suspected of being on meth.

Employees:

- Be aware of large quantity purchases of meth-related items.
- Be alert to people purchasing combinations of meth-related items.
- Watch for theft of meth-related items.
- Look for erratic or suspicious behavior.
- Follow your store's procedures if you think someone may be on meth.
- Never confront someone suspected of being on meth.



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Provided in Cooperation with:
Consumer Healthcare Products Association
www.chpa-info.org



www.MethWatch.com

Developed in Cooperation with:
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**A voluntary
program to combat
methamphetamine
production.**



Methamphetamine, also known as “speed,” “crank,” “glass,” or “ice,” is an illegal drug produced and sold as pills, capsules, powder, or chunks that can be smoked, snorted, injected, or swallowed. Primarily, methamphetamine is imported from foreign countries or produced in the United States in large “super labs” using huge quantities of bulk ingredients. It also may be produced in small, homemade labs from products that are readily available in many retail, convenience, and grocery stores. These small, toxic labs have a devastating effect on the environment, communities, and the children who are frequently present.

The manufacturing of meth requires the use of “precursor” ingredients and other products sold in many stores. Some of the common items used to make meth are:

- over-the-counter cold and asthma tablets containing pseudoephedrine and ephedrine
- acetone
- rubbing and isopropyl alcohol
- iodine
- starter fluid (ether)
- gas additives (methanol)
- drain cleaner (sulfuric acid)
- muriatic acid
- brake cleaner (toluene)
- lithium batteries
- rock salt
- matchbooks (red phosphorus)
- lye
- paint thinner
- aluminum foil
- glassware
- coffee filters
- propane tanks



The Virginia Meth Watch Program

Virginia “Meth Watch” is a program to help deter suspicious sales and theft of pseudoephedrine-containing medicines and other products used in the illegal manufacturing of methamphetamine. Meth Watch was first started in Kansas as a public-private partnership between the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, the Kansas Methamphetamine Prevention Project, and Kansas retailers.

The Consumer Healthcare Products Association (CHPA) has partnered with Kansas to develop a national, uniform Meth Watch program to provide interested states with the resources they need to implement their own statewide Meth Watch programs. Materials and information are centrally located at www.MethWatch.com.

Virginia has joined forces with these organizations to implement Virginia “Meth Watch.” For more information on the Virginia program, please visit the website of Attorney General Jerry Kilgore at www.vaag.com.

What’s in it for retailers?

The cornerstone of the Virginia Meth Watch program is retailer involvement. Participants in the Virginia Meth Watch program can expect safer stores, better customer relations, and improved communications with law enforcement.

Virginia Meth Watch increases employee and management awareness about meth production to reduce the theft and suspicious sale of meth precursors in stores. All this is obtained through:

- Employee and management training
- Signage (door decals and cash register stickers) that serves the dual purpose of letting criminals and customers alike know that a retailer is working with law enforcement to prevent meth production
- Tips on strategic product placement to deter theft
- Working closely with local law enforcement
- An online clearinghouse — www.MethWatch.com — for information about the program, funding sources, federal and state laws, and other resources
- Information specific to Virginia and its program — www.vaag.com — for information and resources necessary to participate in the program

All program materials underscore the importance of allowing law enforcement to do its job. Employees and managers should never attempt to confront a suspicious person.